



# LANE SQUEEZE

It's a street fight over plans for bus-only stretches of road **6-7**

**red  
eye**

**Wednesday**  
MARCH 5, 2014

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune  
publication

A No. 9 bus operates Tuesday on Ashland Avenue, the proposed site of a bus rapid transit makeover.  
ANDREW A. NELLES PHOTO FOR REDEYE



BY JULIA BORCHERTS FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@TRIBUNE.COM » GET MORE EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYETCHICAGO.COM



### LATE EVENING SPECIAL Little Market Brasserie

10 E. Delaware Place 312-640-8141  
Leave the early birds elsewhere and unwind with a **Big Baby Burger** served diner-style with grilled onions, housemade pickles, ketchup, mustard and spicy mayo, plus house fries or salad and your choice of a Great Lakes Eliot Ness or Two Brothers Prairie Path draft beer. 8:30-11 p.m. Sunday-Thursday. \$10.

## DRINK

### THE CAT DIARIES Haymarket Pub & Brewery

737 W. Randolph St. 312-638-0700  
For a purr-fect way to benefit the Harmony House feline shelter, join comedian Angela Vela and storyteller Ray Teresi for a fundraiser featuring multimedia pet-themed stories and comedy sets. Admission includes a raffle ticket and a glass of beer or wine. 7:30 p.m. \$20; or two for \$30. Tickets: [hhforcats.org](http://hhforcats.org)

### DEATH RIDES A HORSE RELEASE PARTY DryHop Brewers

3155 N. Broadway 773-857-3155  
The Lakeview brewery debuts its second rock-themed collaboration beer created with Kuma's Corner, a Russian imperial stout honoring Chicago metal band Russian Circles. Try a 10-ounce pour for \$5 or a pint for \$8 and grab a **souvenir T-shirt** for \$20. 6 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover.



## DO

### RUI: READING UNDER THE INFLUENCE Sheffield's

3258 N. Sheffield Ave. 773-281-4989  
The rowdy series celebrates its 100th installment with tales and literary trivia for book prizes from authors Eric May ("Bedrock Faith") and Laura Krughoff ("My Brother's Name") and live lit series founders Emily Roth (7 Stories) and John "Johnny Misfit" Wawrzaszek (Two Cookie Minimum). 7:30 p.m. \$3.

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT OUT Victory Gardens Theater

2433 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-871-3000  
Join the folks from Center on Halsted for a pre-show cocktail reception and 7:30 p.m. performance of "The Gospel of Lovingkindness," a world premiere drama by New York playwright Marcus Gardley about the effects of violence. A discussion about violence in the LGBT community follows. 6:30 p.m. \$35. Tickets: [victorygardens.org](http://victorygardens.org)



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#### REDEYE TIP OF THE DAY

Check out our favorite new craft beers in our Beer Picks video series: [redeyechicago.com/beerpicks](http://redeyechicago.com/beerpicks)

## GOOSE

### Goose Island Beer Co. presents 312 URBAN PALE ALE 3.12 RELEASE PARTY

Join us on 3.12 to celebrate the launch of Goose Island's new 312 Urban Pale Ale. In addition to the great beer, local food trucks will be keeping everyone well fed. And since it's a party, we've invited some of our favorite bands to get loud. Best of all, this one's courtesy of Goose Island. So, get on the list and be the first to try 312 Urban Pale Ale.

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3.12 @ Salvage One  
1840 W. Hubbard St., Chicago  
7-10pm  
Free w/ RSVP @ [gooseisland.com/312party](http://gooseisland.com/312party)





President Obama released his fiscal year 2015 budget request to Congress on Tuesday. **REUTERS**

# OBAMA'S WISH LIST

## Proposed budget unlikely to pass but provides policy insight

### Reuters

**WASHINGTON** President Obama released his fiscal year 2015 budget request to Congress on Tuesday, and lawmakers will promptly ignore it. The proposal has almost no chance of passage in Congress, where Republicans control the House, but it lays out Obama's policy priorities ahead of November congressional elections.

The budget plan covers less than a third of the approximately \$3.5 trillion the government is likely to spend next year. The rest will be doled out automatically through federal benefits programs that mostly care for the elderly and poor, including Social Security,

Medicare and Medicaid.

Here are a handful of the president's spending and tax proposals.

### Defense spending

The president wants to shrink the Army to its lowest level since before World War II, eliminate the popular A-10 aircraft and reduce military benefits. The Pentagon's budget for the 2015 fiscal year beginning in October is an estimated \$496 billion, about the same amount as the current fiscal year.

### Transportation projects

Obama wants a four-year, \$302 billion plan to repair deteriorating roads and bridges and fund transit projects. He has said he would raise \$150 billion in new money by ending some tax breaks for businesses as part of a corporate tax reform that would also lower

tax rates. Democrats and Republicans agree on the need to spruce up the nation's surface transportation system, but disagree on how to fund the work.

### Manufacturing technology

The president wants to "fully realize" his plan to build 45 manufacturing innovation centers. These are hubs that take advantage of universities and businesses located close to one another to share technology and ideas before products reach the commercial phase. Obama has announced four such centers so far, including one in Chicago.

### Gun control

Almost a year after the Senate defeated gun control legislation prompted by the Newtown, Conn., school massacre, Obama proposed spending \$182 million to address mass shoot-

ings. That includes school safety research, a \$22 million boost for the agency that inspects gun shops and funds for technology to prevent unauthorized users from firing a gun.

### Minimum wage

Obama's budget calls on Congress to lift the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and index it to inflation going forward. The president already signed an executive order setting that as the minimum for federal contract workers. The White House budget also proposed a 1 percent pay raise for all federal workers.

### Coins

Obama floated the idea of using cheaper metals to make pennies and nickels. The Treasury Department has been reviewing the coins' production, which has not changed in decades.



# Spring is coming? That's just a myth



**Doris Dadayan**

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Damn, this polar vortex has me P.O.'d and fat. The forecast calls for temperatures above freezing later this week, but I've lost all hope. I just want to scream, "G.O. AWAY. No one likes you!" So over you, stupid polar vortex. Your deadline was weeks ago. If you show up again, Tom Skilling's thumb will fall off from all that

tweeting. For real.

Thanks a lot, Canada. Does anyone know if the polar vortex is actually a booze cruise in Alaska? Dairy Queen's new ice cream flavor? Dentyne gum? Seriously, I'm asking.

When the temperature drops below zero, it all feels the same: cold as [bleep]. And to add to my annoyance, the barista at Starbucks cheerfully tells me to, "Have a happy polar vortex!" What?!

And how annoying is it that the polar vortex, with its ass-biting bitter cold temperatures, has its own Twitter account? Tweeting that his feelings were hurt because he didn't get invited to any New Year's Eve parties, talking smack saying, "Your mother should wash your mouth out with antifreeze"? Wow.

Plus, there is just no good way to look sexy in a polar vortex. All items must be polar vortex-approved and layered and layered. So we just end up looking like the marshmallow

man or Randy from "A Christmas Story."

While the goal is to try to keep our eyeballs from freezing and falling out of our heads, some of us are still thinking about fashion. But why worry about putting in any effort when nobody can recognize you anyway? We can be walking around wrapped up in every blanket we own—with a bow on top so people can see where our heads are and direct their comments or questions accordingly—and it would be totally fine. Unfortunately, we have things like "jobs" and "dress codes." Ugh. Why is it not socially or professionally acceptable to show up to work dressed in a snowsuit with fuzzy slippers?

With all the layers you need just to get from point A to point B, attempting to walk down the street is useless, so waddling makes more sense. In my arctic commute to work, I carry a bag with hair spray, snacks, ChapStick, eye drops, spicy gum (it makes me hot) and a bottle of Sriracha (it makes me hotter), just to make it through the day.

And that stuffed-pig feeling while trying to get in and out of the car in a super-puffy full-length coat, gloves, scarf and snow boots? You would think this cold would burn some calories and help with weight loss (without losing any of good parts of the face). Ha, nope.

But don't worry. I already stocked up on ice cream and Girl Scout cookies, so I am going to be fine. OK, let's all repeat, "IT'S ONLY A MOVIE! IT'S ONLY A MOVIE!!!" Oh, never mind. Torture ourselves with cheery pics of the summer instead? It doesn't matter.

None of us is making it out alive.

DORISDADAYAN IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



## Hot spots in your home?

### Chicago Tribune

Comcast customers looking for a Wi-Fi hot spot might want to try their neighbor's yard.

The cable and Internet provider has begun to turn hundreds of thousands of Chicago-area homes into virtual coffee shops, utilizing existing Comcast equipment to build out its publicly accessible wireless network.

Rolling out over the next several months, the neighborhood hotspots initiative will send a separate Wi-Fi signal from Comcast-issued home equipment, enabling anyone within range to get online. Soon entire residential blocks will begin to show as hotspots on Xfinity's Wi-Fi app, the company said Tuesday.

Visitors will use their own Xfinity credentials to sign on, and will not need the homeowner's permission or password to tap into their Wi-Fi signal. The homegrown network will also be available to non-subscribers free for several hours each month, or on a pay-per-use basis.

Any outside usage should not affect the speed or security of the home subscriber's private network, according to Tom Nagel, who heads up the Xfinity Wi-Fi initiative for Comcast.

Comcast began building out its Chicago-area Wi-Fi network last year, placing outdoor hot spots in a variety of locations including shopping centers, commuter stations and parks. Additionally, some 9,000 Comcast business customers have signed on to serve as public hot spots.

But the neighborhood initiative will turn Chicago into a Wi-Fi hotbed for Comcast as it closes in on 1 million access points nationwide. Home Internet subscribers will automatically participate in the network's growing infrastructure, although a small number have chosen to opt out in other test markets, according to Nagel.



North Avenue Beach  
HILARY HIGGINS/REDEYE FILE



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# Rapid rewards?

Drivers, riders in a jam over proposed bus-only lanes

By Tracy Swartz | REDEYE

Want to see a fight? Head over to Ashland Avenue, where a controversy is pitting car drivers against transit riders.

On one side is Michael Whalen, who lives near Cermak Road and Ashland Avenue on the Lower West Side. He takes the No. 9-Ashland bus eight to 10 times a week and is pulling for a \$160 million proposal that would create an express Ashland bus that would get dedicated lanes and traffic signal priority over cars.

"The dedicated lane is by far the most exciting. For the bus to be able to slide through traffic like that, it would be perfect," said Whalen, 22. "It's as close to a train as you can get."

On the other side is Kristin Mathews, who lives near Chicago and Ashland avenues in West Town. She has a car and takes the Ashland bus once a week. She is against the Ashland express bus proposal because the

bus-only lane will replace a car lane in each direction. She also opposes the city's plan to severely curb the ability to make left turns on Ashland Avenue.

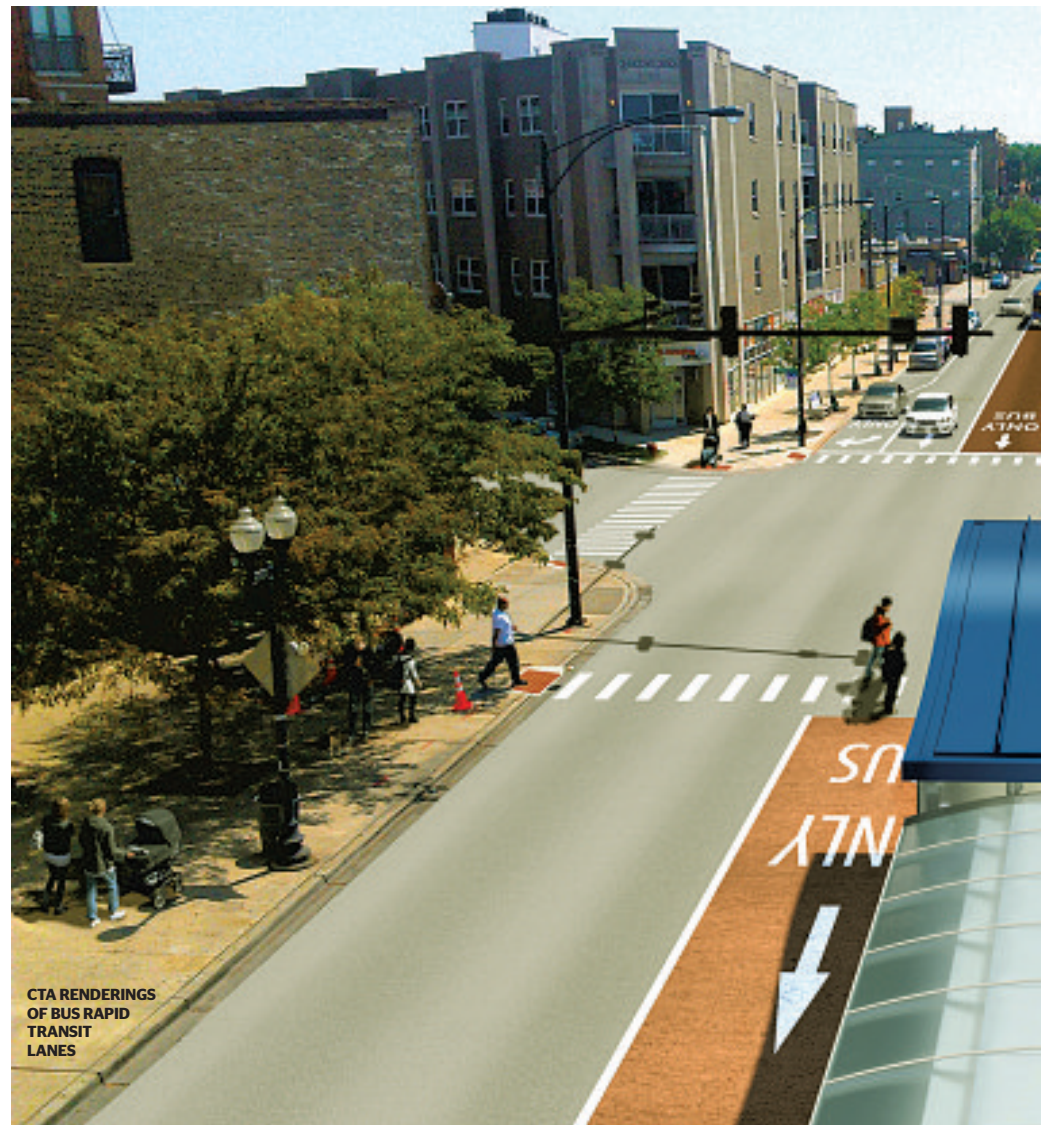
"Traffic on Ashland is frequently terrible, and I don't think that there are enough bus riders to justify taking up two lanes of traffic on a main artery in the city," said Mathews, 31. "It sounds like driving on Ashland is going to be a nightmare."

Welcome to the bus rapid transit debate. As the city and the CTA prepare to introduce bus rapid transit—a form of express bus service that generally includes bus-only lanes and early green lights for buses—this year in the Loop, there is already negative connotation attached to the "bus rapid transit" term as tensions flare over the Ashland proposal.

In the Loop, the city is expected to break ground this year on bus-only lanes on four streets to speed bus service for six routes.

“The dedicated lane is by far the most exciting. For the bus to be able to slide through traffic like that, it would be perfect.”

—Michael Whalen, who rides the No. 9-Ashland



While the city irons out its \$32 million Loop construction plan, it is grappling with devising an express bus service program on Ashland Avenue that satisfies transit riders like Whalen, who want faster and reliable service, and business owners and residents like Mathews, who worry that traffic on Ashland Avenue will be impossible to navigate.

RedEye examines the battle over the city's bus rapid transit plans and their potential effect on Chicago.

## What is bus rapid transit?

Bus rapid transit, or BRT, typically relies on bus-only lanes and traffic signal priority for buses to mimic the speed of train travel. There are various forms of bus rapid transit in cities including Cleveland and Mexico City.

Chicago introduced a version of bus rapid transit in 2012 on a stretch of Jeffery Boulevard on the South Side that has allowed CTA buses to travel in dedicated lanes during rush hour. The city plans to begin work on a Loop system this year. It aims to have it up and running on Ashland Avenue in 2016.

The Loop project calls for dedicated bus lanes on Washington, Madison, Clinton and

Canal streets and early green lights for the Nos. J14-Jeffery Jump, 20-Madison, 56-Milwaukee, 60-Blue Island/26th, 124-Navy Pier and 157-Streeterville as they make their way through downtown.

Nearly 30,000 commuters would benefit from this project, the Chicago Department of Transportation says.

The Ashland Avenue proposal would stretch from Irving Park Road to 95th Street. The first phase would focus on Ashland Avenue between the Metra Clybourn and Ashland Orange Line stations.

The proposal calls for dedicated bus lanes in each direction, which would eliminate a travel lane in each direction. In the plan's current form, nearly 90 percent of left turns also would be axed. About 92 percent of parking on Ashland Avenue would be retained.

The express Ashland bus would stop every half-mile, and riders would see an increase of bus speeds up to 83 percent, the CTA says. The current No. 9-Ashland bus would still remain and make all the stops. About 10.2 million riders took that bus in 2012, making it the top bus in ridership.





#### Why is it so controversial?

Most of the controversy focuses on the Ashland proposal. Proponents of the plan say that the current Ashland bus is too slow and unreliable, and that these changes would eliminate bus bunching (when buses arrive in pairs) and gaps in service. BRT enthusiasts said the features are needed especially since the CTA eliminated an Ashland express bus four years ago as part of service cuts.

Opponents say car travel on Ashland Avenue would be too slow because cars and the local Ashland bus would be forced into one lane. At CTA hearings, some residents who live near Ashland Avenue have said they are concerned that traffic would be diverted to their side streets. Some business owners also have said they worry that left-turn removal would affect the way patrons and shipments would get to their companies.

#### How much will it cost, and who pays for it?

The \$11 million Jeffery Boulevard pilot program was paid for by federal funds. The Loop project is expected to cost about \$32 million—\$24.6 million comes from a federal grant while \$7.3 million is from tax incre-

ment financing, money intended to promote development in certain areas of the city.

The Ashland program, meanwhile, is estimated to cost \$160 million and lacks a clear funding source but would be eligible for federal funding. The money would go toward the construction of lanes, center stations and more than 75 blocks of new streetscaping, among other features.

#### What is the next step for these projects?

The Jeffery project was supposed to see traffic-signal priority for buses last year, but that feature was delayed. Final traffic signal testing is continuing and should be ready for deployment this spring, CDOT spokesman Pete Scales said. For the Loop plan, CDOT is still in the planning stages but expects to have an announcement about construction timetables this spring, Scales said.

On the Ashland Avenue proposal, the CTA recently received 1,100 public comments on the draft assessment of the project's impact. The Federal Transit Administration must approve the final environmental assessment, which is expected to be out in the spring.

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WEDNESDAY  
**30**<sup>15</sup>  
Light snowTHURSDAY  
**34**<sup>28</sup>  
GloominessFRIDAY  
**40**<sup>27</sup>  
Gloominess

Computer models suggest temperatures will remain well below normal through the middle of March.

# PUPPY MILL PRESSURE

## COMMERCIAL BREEDING FACES CITY CRACKDOWN

Chicago Tribune

The retail of commercially bred dogs, cats and rabbits in Chicago would become a thing of the past under a new ordinance set for a City Council vote Wednesday.

The council's License Committee on Tuesday recommended passage of the measure put forth by City Clerk Susana Mendoza, whose office sells dog licenses.

"This ordinance cuts off the pipeline of animals coming into our city from the horrendous puppy mill industry and opens up a new opportunity for animals already in shelters who need a loving home to be adopted into," Mendoza said.

Last month, the first-term clerk proposed requiring city pet stores that sell pooches and felines to source them from government pounds, humane societies or animal rescue groups rather than for-profit operations derided as "puppy mills."

During a Tuesday hearing, Cari Meyers, founder and president of the Chicago-based Puppy Mill Project, described the setups as "puppy hell," saying female dogs spend their lives in cages, are bred as often as possible until they no longer can and then "disposed of by the mills. This is a large-scale, systematic animal cruelty at its absolute worst."

A revised version adds rabbits to the list, requiring that the age, sex, medical history and source of the animal be disclosed by re-



Crates contain dogs rescued from Midwestern puppy mills in June 2011. MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE FILE

tailers, just as they are for cats and dogs under state law.

Violators of the new ordinance, which would go into effect one year after passage, could be fined up to \$1,000 a day or, in the case of repeat offenses, charged with a misdemeanor.

The ordinance would not affect the sale of pets via the Internet, by small-scale breeders

who don't sell in stores or by veterinarians who sell animals from their clinics.

It would, however, affect about 16 businesses across the city, including Pocket Puppies in Lincoln Park, which sells small dogs for \$850 to \$4,000 a pup. Store owner Lane Boron said the ordinance would put him out of business or force him into the suburbs, not curtail the operation of puppy mills.

### NATIONAL MOVEMENT

Dozens of other U.S. cities have banned the retail sale of dogs raised by commercial operations. Animal rights activists contend puppies from mills are prone to disease, congenital defects and poor socialization, leading to owners giving them up to tax-subsidized animal control facilities.

**QUOTABLE**  
"I'm never doing that again."

—Jimmy Fallon, on participating in Chicago's Polar Plunge on Sunday. He continued: "I just plunged back. I went under and a couple bubbles came out and I froze. I just stand up and I took my hat off and my hair turned to icicles, and I heard bagpipes. This is how I went. I thought this was it, I thought it was the end."



### EXPRESS LINES

- In a letter released Tuesday, Attorney General Lisa Madigan nudged Illinois counties to consider granting same-sex marriage licenses immediately, following last week's federal court ruling that gave an early green light to same-sex couples in Cook County.
- Mayor Emanuel is in the very preliminary stages of looking at a 5,000-seat expansion of Soldier Field.
- Spring temperatures may not thaw the Chicago River before St. Patrick's Day weekend, but the water will flow green on March 15 nonetheless, event organizers said, even if they have to break up the ice. **TRIBUNE**



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Troops under Russian command fire weapons into the air and scream orders to turn back at a group of unarmed Ukrainian troops at the Belbek airbase in Crimea on Tuesday. GETTY IMAGES

## Putin defends actions

**MOSCOW** President Vladimir Putin delivered a robust defense of Russia's actions in Crimea on Tuesday and said he would use force in Ukraine only as a last resort, easing market fears that East-West tension over the former Soviet republic could lead to war.

But tension remained high on the ground. Russian forces fired warning shots in a confrontation with Ukrainian servicemen at an air base, and Russian navy ships were reported to have blockaded the strait separating the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula from Russia.

At his first news conference since the crisis began, Putin said Russia reserved the right to use all options to protect compatriots who were living in "terror" in Ukraine, but force was not needed for now.

Putin denied the Russian armed forces were directly engaged in the bloodless seizure of Crimea, saying the uniformed troops without national insignia were "local self-defense forces."

"As for bringing in forces, for now there is no such need, but such a possibility exists," he said. "What could serve as a reason to use

military force? It would naturally be the last resort. Absolutely the last."

Western sanctions under consideration against Russia would be counter-productive, he said. A senior U.S. official said Washington was ready to impose them in days rather than weeks. The Russian Foreign Ministry warned that Moscow would retaliate.

In Washington, President Obama acknowledged that Russia had legitimate interests in Ukraine but said that did not give Putin the right to intervene militarily.

"President Putin seems to have a different set of lawyers making a different set of interpretations," Obama said. "But I don't think that's fooling anybody."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, in Kiev, met Ukraine's interim leaders and announced a \$1 billion economic package and technical assistance for the new government.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper said Tuesday that the Group of Seven leading industrialized nations were considering meeting in the near future, a move that would pointedly exclude Russia.

### Facebook eyeing drone maker: report

Facebook is in talks to buy drone maker Titan Aerospace for \$60 million, according to media reports. The drones would give Facebook the ability to beam wireless Internet access to consumers in undeveloped parts of the world, according to blog TechCrunch.

### Student sues parents for school costs

A New Jersey student who says her parents abandoned her when she turned 18 is suing them for school costs and other expenses in a case legal experts say could set a precedent for a family's obligation to support a child who has left home.

### Experts warn of spy tools in wrong hands

Electronic spying tools used by the U.S. government could end up in the hands of organized criminals and hackers, further eroding Internet security, warned industry leaders who called for new restrictions and oversight of government activity.



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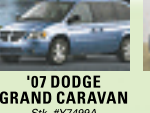
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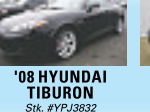
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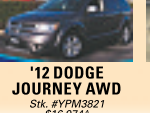
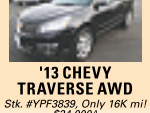
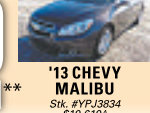
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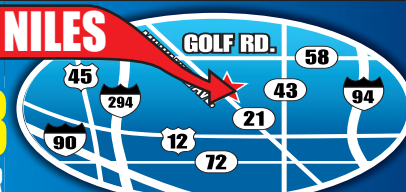


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Michael Bennett  
GETTY IMAGES FILE



Julius Peppers  
NUCCIO DIMUZZO/FRIDWINE FILE



Lamar Houston  
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# NO MORE PEPPERS?

## There are some tough decisions ahead for Bears during offseason

Chicago Tribune

The Bears would have no problem paying Julius Peppers \$14 million next season if they knew he could be a game-changer every Sunday, a pass-rushing force capable of wreaking havoc on quarterbacks.

They also would find a way to make his \$18.1 million salary-cap hit work for that kind of presence. But at 34 and coming off a subpar season that started slow after he missed three exhibition games and a good chunk of training camp with a hamstring issue, Peppers is nearing the end.

General manager Phil Emery has not dropped clues on what will happen with Peppers, who is signed through 2015, but

### HOT DATES

**Saturday:** NFL teams can begin talking to free agents

**Tuesday:** Free agent signings begin at 3 p.m.

given the economics involved, it's difficult to imagine him remaining on the roster much longer. A steep pay cut likely would be difficult to achieve, and the Bears might not be interested in that anyway.

"Decisions are made when they need to be made," Emery said at the scouting combine.

Releasing Peppers would create \$9.8 million in cap space or nearly \$14 million if the Bears spread out the dead money over two seasons.

The options for a replacement at right

end became clearer Monday, when the deadline for franchise and transition tags passed. The Panthers on Friday secured defensive end Greg Hardy, coming off a 15-sack season, with the franchise tag, and the Redskins applied the same to outside linebacker Brian Orakpo on Monday. The Steelers opted for the seldom-used transition tag with outside linebacker Jason Worilds.

That leaves the Seahawks' Michael Bennett, the Raiders' Lamar Houston and the Bengals' Michael Johnson as the top available ends for a 4-3 system. Johnson seems destined to find a new home, but the Raiders and Seahawks have expressed a desire to re-sign Houston and Bennett.

Robbie Gould



## Bon voyage, Bears

The Bears could be without four very familiar faces next season. Whom would we miss most? REDEYE



Charles Tillman  
BRIAN CASSELLA/TRIBUNE FILE

### Charles Tillman



Maybe the best Bears CB ever. And you can't just wave a wand and replace a name like "Peanut."

### Julius Peppers



Chicago bars will be crushed if he moves on. So will headline writers all over the city.

### Devin Hester



It's gonna suck if he breaks the record for most return touchdowns while with another team.

### Corey Wootton



Played anywhere the team asked him to. Plus, it's tough to see Northwestern guys leave.

### THE DIGIT

## 43 YARDS

The NFL is considering moving extra points from the 2-yard line to the 25 for the preseason, according to nfl.com. Only five extra points were missed in 2013. NFL kickers made 83 percent of their kicks in 2013 between 40 and 49 yards. Robbie Gould was 6-of-7 from that range last season and has converted 72 percent from those distances in his career.

### THE STARTING LINE

■ Bulls at Detroit, 6:30 p.m. CSN ■ Wolves at Grand Rapids, 6 p.m. WCIU2 ■ Loyola G Milton Doyle named Freshman of the Year in Missouri Valley Conference



## fiveonfive

## NO GOATS

One of our panelists would like to see goatees disappear. Wow, that came out of nowhere.



**Tracy Swartz**  
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RedEye  
CTA reporter



**Ernest Wilkins**  
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1	How should Marian Hossa rehab his upper-body injury?	With a hot pad. Maybe he can recover Crawford's.	I hear there's a great massage therapist at this place called, like, the Sybaris or something.	By floating in a tank of liquid oxygen until he's completely and entirely healed.	Light curling. Not that floor-sweeping Olympic sport either. No offense to floor sweepers.	100 Stanley Cup dead lifts each day.
2	Why would someone steal Corey Crawford's pads?	Because no one will ever take the Stanley Cup from him.	The same reason people steal pieces of toast that Justin Timberlake bit. Fans are NUTS.	One word: jealousy. Another word: Raanta.	As they say in those Stayfree Maxi commercials, some days are heavier than others.	His pads now, too? First I heard it was his mask. Has he checked his couch cushions? That's where my stuff always winds up.
3	In addition to instant replay, what should MLB be testing during spring training?	Its players.	For goatees? The wispier they are, the longer the suspension.	Android umpires, which shall be known as "Joe Wests."	Not what, who. The answer is Ryan Braun, Jhonny Peralta and Nelson Cruz.	A way to not need instant replay.
4	Now that Peyton Manning has been cleared to play next season...	... old Man-ning can relax.	... the Broncos are winning the title. Sucks but it's true.	... Richard Sherman should get next year's postgame speech ready.	... fantasy football players owning him in dynasty leagues can give a sigh of relief.	... we're all sentenced to another year of endless endorsements and "Omaha!" jokes.
5	If not Carmelo Anthony, whom should be Bulls bring into the fold?	They need someone to complement Joakim Noah besides me.	Same answer as in '08: LAMARCUS ALDRIDGE, baby.	I'd love some Kevin Love. And not just because of the beard.	How about Adam Dunn? He helped Jared Leto and Matthew McConaughey win gold.	Another Joakim Noah would be nice.



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# Fire midfielder can't get enough winter

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

It's March. It's still freezing outside. It's still snowing every other day. Which is fine by Benji Joya.

"Actually, yesterday was the first time I saw snow," the Fire midfielder said Tuesday at the team's season kickoff luncheon. He hails from San Jose, Calif. "It was something new to me and something very motivational. Right now I probably like it. Maybe next year I won't, but right now I'm enjoying it."

"I just wanna go throw myself in it, but it's cold—I touched it and it's cold. It's not like the cartoons where it's all soft and stuff."

Prior to joining the Fire, Joya, 20, played professionally in Mexico. The team had been training in Florida and Arizona before returning to Chicago early this week.

"It's really nice getting to know [my teammates]," he said. "It was never like me, a new player [being an outsider]. It's just something normal, just coming in and fitting in."

His sunny outlook extends to the weather advantage playing in Chicago can provide.

"It's like in Mexico, the players would come down to Torreon and it was hot, so they would get tired pretty fast," Joya said. "I haven't played [in Chicago yet], but I think it's something to take as an advantage because teams are gonna be cold."

The Fire open the MLS season Sunday in L.A. against Chivas USA.

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Benji Joya

## COLORADO 4, BLACKHAWKS 2

Goals by Brandon Smith and Jonathan Toews weren't enough to stop the Hawks from losing to the Avalanche for the third time this season. Corey Crawford saved 17 shots, but the star of the contest was Colorado goalie Semyon Varlamov, who saved 36 on the night.

Earlier in the day, the Hawks made their second trade of the week. They traded a second-round pick in next year's draft for David Rundblad and Mathieu Brisebois of the Phoenix Coyotes.



Paul Stastny (right) and Semyon Varlamov  
SCOTT STRAZZANTE/TRIBUNE

## THE MOUTHWATCH

“I hope they go 0-162. I got friends, and I love my friends, but I hope they lose their ass.”

—Detroit Tigers second baseman Ian Kinsler, to ESPN The Magazine, on his old team, the Texas Rangers

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# music



# 'A whirlwind'

**Lake Street Dive soaring so quickly, Rachael Price can barely keep up**

By Andy Downing | FOR REDEYE

The Colbert Bump is in full effect for Lake Street Dive.

In early February the soul/jazz collective performed "You Go Down Smooth" on "The Colbert Report," and a week later its 2012 EP,

"Fun Machine," surfaced on the Billboard 200. An appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman" followed, and anticipation was running high for the release of the band's latest full-length, "Bad Self Portraits," when singer Rachael Price phoned a few days before its late February release.

The band, which formed nearly a decade ago after meeting at Boston's New England Conservatory of Music, has been building to

this point for a while. In 2012 a video recording of the musicians belting out the Jackson 5's "I Want You Back" went viral, and last year the group played with the likes of Jack White and Marcus Mumford at New York's Town Hall during "Another Day, Another Time," a concert celebrating the music of the Coen Brothers' "Inside Llewyn Davis."

ANDY DOWNING IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.  
@REDEYECHEMUSIC

**This has been quite a stretch for the band. What's been the most surreal part of this whole whirlwind?**

It has been a whirlwind. That's the only way to describe it. Being backstage and chatting with Elvis Costello at the Town Hall for the "Inside Llewyn Davis" concert was pretty surreal.

**How did that appearance come together?**

We have a friend in Punch Brothers who





Bridget Kearney (from left),  
Mike Olsen, Rachael Price  
and Mike Calabrese

works with T Bone Burnett, and I guess he played our music for him one day. We got a call from T Bone shortly after that saying, "How can I help? What can I do?" The concert was a month away, and he asked if we'd be on it.

**I guess there's no confusion as to who's calling when T Bone introduces himself on the phone.**

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[Laughs.] For a second I didn't believe it was really him. I was like, "Really? T Bone is really calling us?" But it's true.

#### You also appeared on the new season of "House of Cards."

That was one of those crazy things. The director of the show saw the band play in Hudson, N.Y., and was like, "I've got a role coming up for a singer. Would you want to do it?" I was like, "Sure," but I figured there was no way it was actually going to happen. Then two weeks later I was on my way to Baltimore to film this scene. I shook Kevin Spacey's hand like 20 times in a matter of three hours. It was bizarre.

#### That's one of those shows people tend to binge-watch. Are you a binge TV watcher?

Yes, absolutely. It's my vice. In fact, it's probably my only vice.

#### What's the last show you devoured?

The newest season of "House of Cards." [Laughs.] It was a little weird. I almost forgot I was on it, and when I got to the episode I was in I was like, "Holy [bleep]!"

#### The turning point for the band really arrived with that Jackson 5 cover in late 2012.

Absolutely. We decided to go full-time with the band about a month before that video went viral. So it felt like one of those signs from the universe.

#### What was the first sense you had that the song was catching on outside your circle of friends and family?

It was pretty drastic. Overnight it went from like 50,000 views to 300,000. I was notified because I'm connected to the YouTube account, and I was getting emails like, "You have a view. You have a view. You have a comment."

#### Does YouTube really send an email with every view? I imagine you adjusted those permissions pretty quickly.

[Laughs.] It was terrible! I immediately went and changed my settings on YouTube. I'd get an email every time there was a comment and every time there was a new subscriber, and even that was insane. Overnight we had like 400 new emails. It was like, "What's going on?"

#### Do you have a favorite viral video?

I should probably say a music one, but I'd say I mostly watch cat videos—kind of like the rest of the world.



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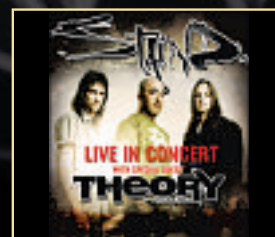
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## ALBUM REVIEW



**G I R L**  
Pharrell Williams

**By Dana Moran**

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Holy cow, do I ever want Pharrell to collaborate with Janelle Monáe! His just-released album, the funkaculicious "G I R L," had me doing a mental shuffle-step-spin so hard, I felt like I was back in her 2013 album "The

Electric Lady." Actually, now I'm daydreaming about a mashup between his "Gust of Wind" ("With your love I can board the skies/Running away that electrifies/Mothership Other, can I stow away?") and her "Electric Lady" title track ("Ooh, shock it, break it, baby/Electric Lady, Electric Lady").

Returning from fantasy land: "G I R L," the mega-successful producer's first solo record since 2006's "In My Mind," is a fine

album whose loud wave sounds in the middle of "Lost Queen" kind of made me need to pee. Obviously, that's not their purpose; the waves provide a clever transition between different sections of the song—the first steeped in chants and African/Caribbean beats, and the second slowed down to a cool groove. It's a nifty study in how context can change a lyric—"I think you are a lost queen/Let me serve you, serve you" sounds much more seductive when backed by breathy gasps, violins and xylophones.

It's too bad the rest of the transitions on "G I R L" couldn't have been this smooth. I was often jarred by tonal jumps from disco to drum-propelled funk, and the inclusion of "Happy," Pharrell's Oscar-nominated contribution to the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack, was entirely unnecessary: Ninety percent of songs written for movies about semi-evil geniuses with fat bodies and toothpick legs are supremely annoying, and "Happy" definitely follows that trend.



Pharrell Williams  
GETTY IMAGES

Overall, though, "G I R L" is a light, fun ride through Pharrell's playful side. "Come Get It Bae" smacks of Missy Elliott and Timbaland's "Get Ur Freak On" and is nearly as good. There's only one way to settle this: a dance-off. That I'd pay to see.

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games

# THREE TO PLAY

BY RYAN SMITH | FOR REDEYE



## Castlevania: Lords of Shadow 2

PC, PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

There are antiheroes, and then there's the unlikely protagonist of the newest "Castlevania" game: Dracula himself. In one of the opening scenes, you wake up from a centuries-long sleep and then murder and consume a young family to regain your vampiric powers. In other words, the dude makes Walter White look like Mr. Rogers. Then you're off to save the world from the only being slightly more wicked than Dracula: Satan. It's a pitch-black plot, yes, but this "Castlevania" is surprisingly well done, especially with the help of A-list voice actors like Patrick Stewart and Robert Carlyle. Too bad the action-packed gameplay doesn't quite hold up its end of the bargain. It plays a lot like "God of War" with a few weird bits where you possess rats or swing on one too many fancy chandeliers. These antics suck the blood out of what could have been a top-shelf tale.



## Thief

PC, PlayStation 3 & 4, Xbox 360 & One

Speaking of antiheroes, this remake of the beloved PC classic "Thief" finds players controlling the ninja-like kleptomaniac Garrett. Combat is a last resort for Garrett, who is asked to study his surroundings and find the path of least resistance toward the object of his next heist, whether by slipping past guards when they're not looking or tiptoeing over rooftops. The game's world is like a Charles Dickens novel imagined by H.P. Lovecraft—an oppressively dark, dank Victorian England inhabited by black magic and evil cultists. Likewise, the entire game suffers from from facing too many enemies with too few tools at your disposal.



## Earth Defense Force 2025

PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

Syfy original movies such as "Sharknado" aim for campy B-movie territory, and often hit their mark. That's what "Earth Defense Force 2025" also seems to aim for, but instead of so-bad-it's-good, it's just straight-up bad. "Earth Defense" features futuristic soldiers using over-the-top lasers to blast giant insects while spouting off ridiculous one-liners—mostly about how crazy it is giant insects are running around killing everybody. The concept is great on paper, but the visuals are second-rate, and shooting massive ants off skyscrapers gets mind-numbingly repetitive very quickly. RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.

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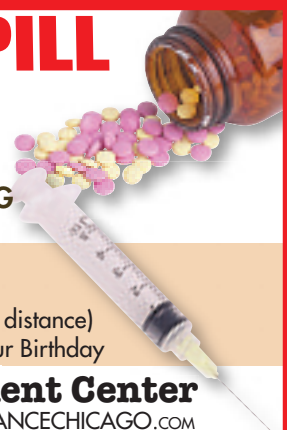
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# theater

## Let's hear it for the boys

Head writer-director Jason Lord dishes on balancing the funny with the serious



By Julia Borcherts | FOR REDEYE

Thanks to a recent court ruling, same-sex couples in Cook County can now get married immediately rather than having to wait until June. And while that's an occasion for joy, sometimes enthusiastic interference from families and friends can lead to misunderstandings and awkward outcomes.

Enter 4 Days Late, a Chicago comedy-theater ensemble best known for their reality TV parody, "Jersey Shore: The Musical," which ran for nine months in 2011-2012. Now they return with "Tony n' Timmy's Wedding: The Bachelor Party"—a parody of "Tony n' Tina's Wedding," which ran for nearly 20 years at

Piper's Alley—in which the well-meaning but



Jason Lord (left) and Jackie Prater

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clueless hetero brother of one of the grooms plans the bachelor party he thinks they'd enjoy, with disastrous consequences.

The show's director and head writer is ensemble member Jason Lord, who in real life is preparing for his own wedding. In December, he enlisted his 4 Days Late mates to help him put a ring on it with his girlfriend, Jackie Prater. The video of his proposal, which included an ensemble performance of an "inside joke" song the two share and a video clip from actor Aaron Paul ("Breaking Bad") wishing the couple well, went viral. We called Lord to find out more.

**The show's inspiration:** It came from a 4 Days Late member named Dan Gold. We were watching the Pride Parade, and talking about gay rights in Chicago and how now that we're past the political element of gay rights, we're talking about the pragmatic—and that means all the things that formerly just straight couples had to worry about now became things that gay couples had to worry about. [Laughs.] Like, "What are the in-laws going to say?" And, "Who's going to sit next to who at the ceremony?" So we're talking around that and the idea of somebody who comes from a small town and whose brother wants to impress him and just has no idea how to appropriately throw a gay wedding or a gay bachelor party seemed really amusing to us.

**Why they incorporated a "Tony n' Tina's Wedding" parody:** I thought it was a fun show.



Cast members rehearse for 'Tony n' Timmy's Wedding: The Bachelor Party'

And [Dan] thought, what if we combine these two ideas—did a parody of "Tony n' Tina's" that was sort of a Trojan horse for some deeper conversations about what it's like to suddenly be a gay couple thrown into a straight world of weddings?

**How the marriage equality ruling affected the script:** We had to rewrite the show. [Laughs.] The show originally ended with a "stand up on your chair and shake your fist in the air" sort of political statement saying, "one day." And then we're like, "Well, we're going to have to change all that!" [Laughs.] We couldn't be happier that we have to make this change, of course. But now we bring it out of the political realm and make it just purely at the interpersonal level of what's happening with these characters.

**Balancing the show's humor with the importance of the same-sex marriage issue:** 4 Days Late has always been good about using the goofiness of our premise as a Trojan horse. When we did "Jersey Shore: The Musical," we tricked a lot of people into seeing real theater by having a premise of "Jersey Shore" and having deeper themes underneath it. The emotional

resonance of the ruling, of how long it's taken for gay men and women to acquire equal rights, and to be able to express who they are and who they love can be dealt with in a funny, goofy way without losing how serious and meaningful it is. What surprised me is how deep the emotions are felt by the people who are involved with it, while still being able to be funny. And that balance has been a pleasant surprise.

**Don't fear the show's interactive components:** As somebody who comes from the theater world, nothing is scarier than that moment when the cast members step offstage and start going into the audience. [Laughs.] You're like, "Please don't talk to me; please don't talk to me." So we wanted to be very sensitive to that. There are going to be people who love to interact and want to come onstage and we want to give them opportunities. But if all you're looking to do is come and observe it, you'll have just as much fun. It's a bachelor party—any nudity? There is no nudity—that we're planning [laughs]—but there is a moment in the play where somebody makes a misguided attempt to try to assimilate to a gay lifestyle.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.







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## movies

# Netflix, what?

## Jessica Alba masters math in 'An Invisible Sign'

By **Melanie Stone** | REDEYE

We've all had that moment: Scrolling through streaming options on Netflix, you see a movie you've never heard of that features familiar faces and can't help but blurt out, "What is that?" (In reality, this may contain profanity.) In "Netflix, what?" we actually watch those movies and let you know if they're worth the time.

**Movie:** "An Invisible Sign"

**Year:** 2010

**Backstory:** 20-something Mona Gray (Jessica Alba) uses numbers to deal with her



Jessica Alba (left) and Chris Messina in 'An Invisible Sign'

father's worsening mental illness. She lands a job as an elementary-school math teacher, falls for a beautiful bearded man, Ben (Chris Messina of "The Mindy Project"), and—spoiler alert—winds up with an ax in her leg.

**Why it jumped out at me:** Alba, whom I'll watch in anything. I thought "An Invisible Sign" might be something of a melodramatic sequel to "Honey," substituting a math nerd for a dancer with perfect abs. Plus, the music in the trailer is light, whimsical and soothing, which are totally descriptions we all associate with schoolwork and serious cognitive deterioration.

**Highlights:** Um, I didn't hate looking at Messina. The film has one measly kissing scene,

and just when things are getting steamy, Mona pulls away from Ben and locks herself in the bathroom to eat a bar of soap. What?

**Was it worth 90 minutes of my time:** N-O.

"An Invisible Sign" will lead you into a dark hole of sadness and numbers and make your blood boil. It will make you yell at your screen, clench your fists and curse under your breath. Also, let it be known that Mona sports pigtails for 99.7 percent of the movie. If you thought Alba could make pigtails look good, this movie will prove you wrong.

**Quote to use in everyday conversation:**

"Life is much, much harder than math." Yes, Jessica Alba. It most certainly is.

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	6				2			9
	4		8			6		
1		2		7	6			
	1					9	2	8
	3						6	
6	9	8					3	
			4	2		3		1
		9			1		8	
4			6					9

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

4	9	8	2	6	7	3	5	1
6	2	3	9	1	5	7	8	4
1	5	7	3	8	4	6	9	2
2	1	5	7	3	8	9	4	6
8	7	6	4	9	1	5	2	3
9	3	4	5	2	6	8	1	7
5	8	2	1	7	3	4	6	9
3	6	1	8	4	9	2	7	5
7	4	9	6	5	2	1	3	8

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

T	E	A		S	A	G	E	S		I	N	T	O
O	A	T	S	E	L	O	P	E		N	O	U	N
P	R	O	P		R	O	B	I	N		S	O	R
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		C	O	A	T				I	T	S		
A	S	W	I	R	L		S	A	B	O	T	A	G
S	P	E	E	D		F	I	L	L		M	O	M
H	U	E	S		B	U	G	L	E		S	A	R
E	N	D		N	A	N	N	Y		H	A	Z	E
S	K	Y		J	A	C	K	S		R	E	M	E
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A	G	O	G		A	S	S	A	I	L	A	N	T
L	O	N	G		R	I	L	L	S		N	E	A
M	A	C	E		A	L	I	V	E		S	A	K
S	L	E	D		T	O	T	E	D		R	E	D

ACROSS

- 1 In the \_; sheltered from the sun  
6 Disassemble  
10 Obstacle  
14 Belly button  
15 Uttered  
16 Fairy \_; fable  
17 "Wanted: Dead or \_"  
18 Egg on  
19 Actor's part  
20 Foot doctor's specialty  
22 Humiliates  
24 Make a tiny cut  
25 Ridiculous  
26 Streak of light across the sky  
29 Burn with liquid  
30 Pennsylvania or Fifth: abbr.  
31 Contradict an argument  
33 Full of foliage  
37 Twelve months  
39 Actor Matt \_  
41 Urgent  
42 Distorted; awry  
44 Attracted; drew  
46 TV room, often  
47 Baby chicken's sound  
49 Signs of life felt in the wrists  
51 Choices  
54 Neighbor of Algeria  
55 Bricklayer's plaster  
56 Opposite of hunger  
60 \_ code; phone number's start  
61 Frosted  
63 See eye to eye  
64 Make well  
65 Unfriendly  
66 Royal  
67 \_ together; combines  
68 Sacred  
69 Like a wry sense of humor

DOWN

- 1 Ginger cookie  
2 Ring of light above a saint  
3 Passionate  
4 Conceive; dream up  
5 Mrs. Roosevelt  
6 Seize and hold, as power  
7 \_ a one; none  
8 Excavate

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20					21				22	23				
			24					25						
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30				31		32				33		34	35	36
37			38		39				40		41			
42				43		44				45		46		
				47		48			49		50			
51	52	53						54						
55							56					57	58	59
60						61	62				63			
64						65					66			
67						68					69			

- 9 City in Texas  
10 Left high & dry  
11 Wynonna's ma  
12 Gracie or Steve  
13 Honking birds  
21 Fatigued  
23 Small mountain  
25 Oscar hopeful  
26 Poet Angelou  
27 12/24 & 12/31  
28 Yellowish-brown wood

- 29 Recap  
32 Bundles of hay  
34 Helps  
35 Unrestrained  
36 Strong desires  
38 Piano students' presentations  
40 Kathmandu's nation  
43 "Slow down, Trigger!"  
45 Simpleton  
48 Add to; adorn

- 50 Stick around  
51 Nebraska city  
52 \_ over; studied intently  
53 \_ on; trample  
54 Like a garden after the rain  
56 Collapsed  
57 Consequently  
58 Close tightly  
59 Peddle  
62 Pigeon's cry

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2008 Chevrolet Malibu LS Stk. #D1237D.....\$9,991\*  
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2012 Ford Fiesta S Stk. #E1357A.....\$10,991\*  
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# whoville



**Cher's magical closet**  
Upgraded for 2014 with an iPad. Cher would've been the first girl in the school with one of these, for sure.

## Iggy Azalea is living our dream in video for 'Fancy'

By Dana Moran | REDEYE

Sometimes in the course of human events, something amazing happens. On Tuesday, Aussie rapper Iggy Azalea dropped the video for her single with Charli XCX, "Fancy." An homage to one of the greatest films of all time, "Clueless," the video re-creates some of the flick's most important scenes, starring Iggy as the intrepid Cher Horowitz. Here's a breakdown of great scenes the duo chose from the 1995\* classic.

\*On a personal note, the fact that "Clueless" came out 19 years ago is truly terrifying. And yet it still stands the test of time. DAMORAN@TRIBUNE.COM | @REDEYEDANA



### Going totally Ambular

We don't remember her being quite this passionate during the debate scene, but we can dig it.



### Lunch time

This scene is SCREAMING for some Travis Birkenstock. But nice look with the smiley-face backpack.



### Gym class

"Ms. Stoeger, my plastic surgeon doesn't want me doing any activity where balls fly at my nose."



### WE'RE ON THE FREEWAY!

First, great license plate. Second, props for sticking braces on the Donald Faison lookalike.



### The party

Where suburban America first learned the importance of two things: the game of Suck and Blow, and Coolio.



### Christian gives Cher The Old Eye

I think we all learned a lot of important things about seduction from this scene, like how to draw attention to your mouth and that sometimes you have to send yourself flowers. And that gay boys are always the cutest ones.



### Hallway meetup

Someone needs to do an MTV "Making the Video" about this thing, because from what we can tell, those are the EXACT costumes from the movie—especially Dionne's hat.

# TOTALLY BUGGIN'



Iggy Azalea  
GETTY IMAGES



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# Walter and Jesse go to Lolla?



Seth Meyers  
GETTY IMAGES

## The vagina dialogue

Cameron Diaz ... author? Believe it. She sat down with Chelsea Handler on Monday night to discuss "The Body Book," in which she discusses smoking, diet sodas and, naturally, her crotch area. "We think the vagina is on the outside. I say grab a mirror and play along. Get in there," she told Handler. Definitely not the worst advice we've gotten this week.

## HOT DATE

**MAY 3**

That's when Seth Meyers will serve as the celebrity entertainer for Make-A-Wish Illinois' Wish Ball fundraiser, the Tribune reports. Tickets to the Soldier Field event are \$600 each, or \$6,000 for a table. Hey, it's for a good cause!

Yes, Aaron Paul plans to return to Lolla this year. Could his "Breaking Bad" co-star Bryan Cranston be by his side? "I've tried to convince him to come with me to Coachella, just 'cause that's closer to our home," Paul told RedEye while promoting "Need For Speed" (out March 14). "He said, 'Yeah, no, I'll come ...' I gotta see where's at in April." Translation: unlikely.



## THE QUOTE

I get the dream to go and leave the fast life and make jam, I really do."

—"Scandal" star Dan Bucatinsky, on his lust for, well, jam. Main character Olivia Pope (Kerry Washington) waxed poetic on Vermont jam in last week's episode, and Bucatinsky said he himself has experience making fig jam.

## Do the hustle!

"Dancing With the Stars" announced its Season 18 cast this week; the show premieres March 17. Here's our official ranking of the contestants:

**WILL WIN:** Olympic ice dancer Meryl Davis

**WILL COME CLOSE:** Meryl's partner, Charlie White

**THE DARK HORSE:** Endurance swimmer Diana Nyad

**WE REALLY WANT TO SEE:** NeNe Leakes, Danica McKellar, Candace Cameron Bure, Billy Dee Williams

**EVERYBODY ELSE:** Amy Purdy, Cody Simpson, Drew Carey, James Maslow, Sean Avery



Matthew McConaughey (left) and Woody Harrelson

## THE DIGIT

**450**

That's how many pages are in a "graph" Matthew McConaughey wrote about his "True Detective" character, Rust Cohle, the actor told Rolling Stone. The Oscar winner wrote the document to help him keep track of his character's arc during the 17 years spanned in eight episodes. McConaughey also confirmed to the mag that he won't be back for Season 2 of the HBO show, which isn't really a spoiler, but don't tell us ANYTHING ELSE before the Season 1 finale airs Sunday.

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